

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.](#)[View this email in your browser](#)**Newsletter #16:****What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.**

I'm writing this newsletter in the clouds, literally, on my way back home after three hectic days in London. Before I get into that I want to urge you to check out the coin of the week at the bottom of this email before you sign off. I offer interesting coins from my inventory and consignors that are only available to those receiving this newsletter. After a few days I offer the coin publicly. I know that there are a lot of auctions coming up but there are still some great coins without buyer's premium on offer on my site. Check them out.

If you know anyone that wants to receive my newsletter they can sign up easily on my website, www.shannaschmidt.com under contact.

There is a lot coming in the next few weeks. Here is how they happen by date:

Sincona May 16, 2017 and Nomos May 17, 2017 (Zürich, Switzerland)

Sincona has a small but interesting Byzantine collection coming to auction on May 16. Nomos, on May 17th, features the Stoecklin collection which spans 100 years and three generations. Many of the pieces have pedigrees that will interest collectors.

A few of you have given me your bids already. These auctions are coming up next week so if you have interest let me know at least a day in advance so I can coordinate with the auction house for phone bidding.

Numismatik Lanz München May 23, 2017 (Munich, Germany)

On my return today from London I received the Lanz 164 catalog. Lanz has an interesting group of Greek, Roman, Byzantine and world coins on offer. At the end of the catalog he features a small but interesting collection of pendants from the 1600s and 1700s. I haven't had enough time to study this auction yet but I wanted to let you know since the auction is around the corner. Mr. Lanz has kindly offered to send me additional catalogs for my customers so if you want one please ask me. The auction can also easily be viewed on *Sixbid*.

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named "From a Princely Collection". While M&E will not confirm this, most of us realize this is a small sample of the vast collection owned by the deceased Shaikh of Qatar, Sa'ud bin Muhammed Al Thani. Shaikh Sa'ud burst into the ancient coin market around 2011 and created excitement among dealers and frustration among collectors of Greek coinage. His determined posturing in auctions shut out any chance of fair bidding resulting in high hammer prices on all coins, even ones that were common. Al Thani died suddenly in 2014 and left many unpaid bills to several auction houses, therefore, we are beginning to see his coins reappear in the market. I've viewed the 37-coin collection. There are some impressive pieces available, most with outstanding pedigrees such as Kunstfreund, Pozzi and Jameson. I will offer phone bidding for this auction and brought back a few catalogs should anyone want a copy. First come, first serve.

NAC Auction – May 29–30, 2017 (Zürich, Switzerland)

As most of you know I went to London primarily to view the 2,000+ lots of NAC. The three catalogs make up a small but impressive group of aureii from the collector George La Borde and a massive sale of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins, many with pedigrees dating back well over half a century. Many of you kindly gave me your lot selections a bit early so I could take full advantage of the viewing process.

While I viewed a majority of the lots, there were some I just didn't have time to see. Luckily the most important ones have been viewed. Please let me know soon if you want me to represent you in this auction. I will be taking bids up until about 24 hours before the auction so I can alert NAC in sufficient time on which lots I will need to be called. If I didn't view a lot that you need to be viewed just let me know and I will have NAC send additional photos to ensure that the coin is fine.

Hess Divo – May 31, 2017 (Zürich, Switzerland)

Hess Divo has a live auction scheduled around the other auction companies. I have asked them to please send me 10 catalogs that I could distribute to anyone that might be interested. While the catalog is largely Ottoman gold, there are 133 high quality ancient coins. I am offering representation services for phone bidding so if you would like to have a catalog or want to bid on anything please do contact me.

Coin of the Week <http://www.shannaschmidt.com/coin-of-the-week/>

The coin this week is a denarius struck under the emperor Otho. Otho was one of the short-lived first century emperors in a year that saw massive upheaval in Rome. Despite his short and tumultuous reign, coins of Otho are extremely popular.

Otho, January – April 69 AD. Rome mint. AR Denarius, 3.61g (19.7mm, 12h). IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P, bare head right / PONT MAX (high priest), Ceres standing left, stalks of grain in right hand, cornucopiae in left hand

Pedigree: Ex Jyrki Muona collection

Price: \$11,000

The Three Month Reign of Otho

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your had larger-than-life personalities which are reflected in the numismatic portraiture and told in historical accounts.

In the emperor Otho, as in his successor Vitellius, one can find little to admire. Born in AD 32 to a wealthy family, Marcus Salvius Otho grew up as a pampered playboy with a taste for the finer things in life. He had a peculiar abhorrence for bodily hair and removed all hair from his entire body, including his head. To cover his baldness, he then wore a carefully made wig, clearly visible in this outstanding coin portrait.

Otho was the first to openly attain office through the murder of his predecessor. When Nero's regime collapsed in AD 68, Otho was governor of Lusitania, a position given to him by Nero which he resented. Otho was one of Galba's earliest supporters and expected to be named successor to the then 70-year-old Galba. However, Galba chose a young aristocrat instead and Otho retaliated by immediately began plotting his assassination.

Otho took on a substantial amount of debt in order to bribe the Praetorian Guard to murder Galba, under whom they were suffering. After Galba's brutal murder in public view, the terrified senate hailed Otho emperor. Otho's reign was as brief, chaotic, and desperate as it was degrading. Few in Rome would have wanted to be emperor since the German governor Vitellius was leading his army toward Italy at a rapid pace.

His reign culminated in a battle at Cremona in the north of Italy where Otho and the Praetorian Guard attempted to hold the line against Vitellius at the River Po. The battle went decisively against Otho and as many as 40,000 Roman soldiers died.

His generals urged him to keep fighting, but being clearly disheartened by the carnage, he decided to spare Rome further bloodshed. Retiring to his room with a dagger, he stabbed himself in the heart the morning of April 16 or 17, AD 69. His noble end gained him a respect that had eluded him in life.

In a surprising omission, the late C. H. V. Sutherland, author of Volume I of Roman Imperial Coinage, does not list this issue among denarius types for Otho on the basis of a counterfeit example which had resided in the British Museum since 1867 (sharing an obverse die with a fake aureus) even though a number of perfectly genuine examples have long been known and are in both public and private collections.

The inscription "PONT MAX" refers to Pontifex Maximus, Otho claiming himself to be "the High Priest (Chief Pontif)"

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you are interested in any other coins I have available please visit my website www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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